

Commissioners:

Don't lose track of what's important.

We enjoy de-regulation for many reasons, but principally because lack of government interference avoids clouding the market; in turn, that yields greater competition and better prices and service to consumers. Regretfully, that is not the case in the matter of docket no. 04-405.

Instead of inspiring competition, the relief from regulation that the petitioner has sought is entirely self-serving and sets a precedent that will, in the end, reduce competition and reduce choice. Bell South argues that the market for broadband services is competitive, but it is so only because consumers like me have the competitive choice of using the type of service that Bell South wishes to suspend. Were the Commission to grant the forbearance the petitioner requests, my options for broadband service inevitably go from plentiful to two; this is antithetical to the goal of encouraging true competition, superior to the kind of false competition that Bell South claims.

We enjoy de-regulation, but not simply for the sake of de-regulation. I request that the Commission deny forbearance in this matter and keep competition alive.

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